

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 18-71 are pending in the application, with 18, 38, and 39 being the independent claims.

The specification is amended to insert a statement in compliance with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office notice regarding electronically filed sequence listings found at <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/portal/efs/legal.htm>. The inserted statement is not new matter because it is a mere formality necessary for filing an electronic copy of a sequence listing that is identical to the paper copy of the sequence listing that was filed with the original application.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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